



**Iowa City**  
Center of Excellence  
Director: Gary E. Rosenthal, MD  
**Executive Summary for Fiscal Year 2008**

Established in June 2004, the Center for Research in the Implementation of Innovative Strategies in Practice (CRIISP) seeks to improve veterans' wellbeing through the development of an innovative research program that advances understanding of strategies to incorporate knowledge into practice. CRIISP represents a close partnership of the VA HSR&D Service, Iowa City VAMC, VISN 23, and health services research programs at the University of Iowa in the Colleges of Medicine, Public Health, Nursing, Pharmacy, Liberal Arts, and Business.

Research studies conducted by CRIISP seek to: 1) identify fundamental barriers and facilitators to the adoption of evidence-based practices; and 2) apply this understanding to develop, test, and disseminate novel interventions to improve the cost and quality of VA health care delivery in a variety of practice settings. CRIISP projects are designed by interdisciplinary teams, incorporate a spectrum of quantitative and qualitative methods, and emphasize conditions for which there is both evidence to achieve a national consensus regarding best practices and clear gaps between evidence and practice. In addition, CRIISP strives to develop interventions that will be effective in typical practice settings and that will be feasible for VHA hospitals and clinics to implement on a wide basis.

For FY '09, CRIISP has four goals: 1) Expand our base of veteran-centric investigator-initiated research supported through VA, DoD, NIH, and other non-VA sources. 2) Expand our support for the professional development of junior investigators who are committed to careers in VHA. 3) Extend strategic partnerships with the Iowa City VAMC, VISN 23, and the VA Office of Rural Health and other offices in VA CO to create laboratories for the testing of innovative approaches to health care delivery. 4) Develop a niche in implementation science that is unique among HSR&D Centers of Excellence.